



# 4-H CLUBS AND INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION

As determined by National 4-H Headquarters/USDA, National 4-H Council and the National 4-H Leadership Trust, it is at the discretion of each state 4-H program to determine how it might want to manage different components of their International Education program, decide whether they will continue to include an exchange component in their portfolio, and to decide if they will ask for help from the International Program Committee (IPC) or any other group to manage those activities for them. ***If a state 4-H program decides to continue an exchange program, the state must take full responsibility for the program. There will be NO nationally sanctioned 4-H exchange programs, and the IPC does not function as National 4-H Program Leadership.***

Exchange programs may still be conducted under the auspices of a State 4-H Program but it must clearly indicate which state (and institution) is accepting responsibility for the program. Should several states wish to work together; one state (institution) will still need to accept responsibility for conducting and managing the program on behalf of the others.

- Exchange programs should address 4-H priorities, goals and essential elements.
- Develop best practices and standards related to exchange programs (interstate, international). This can be distributed in the form of a handbook (web based). It will include: program management guidelines, legal guidelines, risk management guidelines, volunteer management guidelines and essential elements of a positive 4-H youth development program.
- Explore options of how to manage all multi-state, 4-H age, international exchange programs and through fee generation have the ability to support management expenses including staff. Exchanges should be a part of a sequential learning experience, not a stand alone activity. Risk management and program quality on the forefront of concern.

## GUIDANCE:

- 4-H International Education Programs should focus on “world citizenship” especially emphasizing cultural understanding and should work to integrate these concepts into multiple levels of programming.
- 4-H World Citizenship programs should be designed for 4-H age youth and the volunteers who serve those youth.
- Programs designed for adults (20 and older) should not carry the 4-H Name & Emblem, but should fall under the International Programs office of USDA in the CSREES Higher Education unit.

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

- Q. WHAT IS THE ROLE OF THE IFYE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION OF THE UNITED STATES WITH THE 4-H INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE AND WITH THIS DECISION?
- A. This is the decision of the IFYE Alumni Association. We understand from IFYE representatives that this group wished to return to being an alumni association and felt they were not the entity that should be attempting to manage exchange activities or other Cooperative Extension program functions. Our assumption from those conversations is that they would focus on their original purposes.
- Q. IN SHORT, ARE INTERNATIONAL CITIZENSHIP OPPORTUNITIES A FUNCTION OF THE STATES NOW?
- A. Cooperative Extension program opportunities have always been a function of the states- as it is up to each state to decide what program portfolio they will make available to their program participants. The national level does not prescribe program delivery to the state and local level. Some states emphasize international education, some do not - just as some states have a vigorous shooting sports program and others do not. National 4-H Headquarters will not be sponsoring or managing exchange activities in either the short term or henceforth. However, we have and will continue to support Global Citizenship programs.
- Q. WHO, WHICH BODY, PERSON OR PERSONS, WILL NOW “EXPLORE THE OPTIONS” ENDORSED FROM THE 4-H INTERNATIONAL TASK FORCE AND THE TRUST? IN OTHER WORDS, WHOSE RESPONSIBILITY IS IT NOW TO IMPLEMENT THESE RECOMMENDATIONS?
- A. Each partner is responsible for taking this same type of action- to review the recommendations of the Task Force and Trust and decide what action they are willing -and can-support and what level of priority this program area might have within their portfolio.
- Q. CAN THE INTERNATIONAL PROGRAM COMMITTEE (IPC) RUN THE EXCHANGE PROGRAMS?
- A. The IPC, a 501(c)3 which is not authorized to use the 4-H name and emblem, can help foster the world citizenship program goals, and can provide assistance and coordination for state exchange programs. However, programs must still be tied directly to, and run by, a state and cannot be perceived as general or national-level 4-H exchange programs.



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